

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00

PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /109 W

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P 011013Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3830

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

USINT HAVANA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

AMEMBASSY SANA

USMISSION USNATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

DIA WASHDC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PEPR, XA, MA, VM, UR

SUBJECT: MADAGASCAR PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO MOSCOW

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REF: MOSCOW 14669 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: VISIT TO MOSCOW BY MADAGASCAR PRESIDENT
RATSIRAKA PROVIDES CONVENIENT DEMONSTRATION OF SUPPORT
FOR MOSCOW'S AFRICA POLICY. IN EXCHANGE OF DINNER
SPEECHES, BREZHNEV REPEATS THEME OF RECENT SOVIET
GOVERNMENT STATEMENT ON AFRICA AND AFFIRMS SOVIET

SUPPORT FOR VIETNAMESE PEOPLE. RATSIRAKA PULLS OUT ALL STOPS IN HIS PRO-SOVIET, ANTI-WESTERN DIATRIBE AND, IN A RATHER CONFUSED PARAGRAPH, CALLS FOR A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION IN HORN OF AFRICA ALONG LINES OF A FEDERATION OR CONFEDERATION. END SUMMARY.

1. (BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED) JUNE 30 PRAVDA CARRIES REPORT OF PREVIOUS DAY'S TALKS BETWEEN MADAGASCAR PRESIDENT RATSIRAKA AND BREZHNEV. TASS REPORT ON TALKS, SAID TO HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN ATMOSPHERE OF "FRIENDSHIP AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING," EMPHASIZED SOVIET SUPPORT FOR MADAGASCAR AND MADAGASCAN GRATITUDE FOR IT. ON INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS TWO SIDES NOTED "COINCIDENCE OR CLOSENESS" OF POSITIONS.

2. IN BREZHNEV'S DINNER SPEECH TO RATSIRAKA, THE FORMER PRAISED THE "ACTIVE, ANTI-IMPERIALIST COURSE" OF MADAGASCAR AND IMPLIED THAT TWO SIDES SHARED THE DESIRE TO STRENGTHEN THE OAU ON AN "ANTI-IMPERIALIST, ANTI-COLONIAL" BASIS. BREZHNEV'S REMAINING COMMENTS, AS HE ADMITTED, PARALLELED THE THEME OF THE RECENT SOVIET GOVERNMENT STATEMENT ON AFRICA (REFTEL, REPEATED TO ANTANANARIVO). HE ATTACKED IDEA OF INCLUSION OF AFRICA INTO NATO "SPHERE OF ACTIVITY", AS WELL AS CREATION OF INTER-AFRICAN FORCE. IN SHORT, SAID BREZHNEV, THE AFRICAN SCHEMES OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IMPERIALISTS ARE "DANGEROUS" NOT ONLY FOR THE AFRICAN PEOPLE, BUT FOR THE CAUSE OF PEACE AND DETENTE.

3. IN REITERATING THE SOVIET POSITION ON AFRICA, BREZHNEV PIOUSLY PROCLAIMED THAT USSR WAS NOT OPPONENT OF DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS TO REACH PEACEFUL SOLUTIONS TO AFRICAN PROBLEMS - PROVIDED SUCH A SOLUTION ANSWERS THE "LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF THE AFRICAN PEOPLE."

4. AFTER OBLIGATORY REFERENCE TO INDIAN OCEAN ZONE OF PEACE, BREZHNEV TURNED TO VIETNAM. HE EMPHASIZED HISTORY OF SOVIET RESPECT AND FRIENDSHIP FOR VIETNAM AND, AT TIME OF "CRUDE AND UNJUST PRESSURE" FROM ABROAD, PLEDGED "DECISIVE SUPPORT" TO EFFORTS IN DEFENSE OF INALIENABLE SOVEREIGN RIGHTS AND CONSOLIDATION OF INTERNATIONAL POSITIONS OF VIETNAM. THIS REMARK DREW APPLAUSE FROM THE DINNER GUESTS, THE ONLY SUCH SEPARATE REMARK TO BE THUS SINGLED OUT. (END UNCLASSIFIED)

5. (BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) RATSIRAKA'S
INCREDIBLY LENGTHY AND HACKNEYED COMMENTS IN
DEFENSE OF SOVIET POLICY AND IN ATTACK ON THAT OF
THE WEST DO NOT SEEM TO US WORTHY OF EXTENDED

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REPORTING OR COMMENT. IN ONE INTERESTING, IF
CONFUSED, PARAGRAPH ON THE AFRICAN HORN, RATSIRAKA
DID SAY THAT CAUSE OF SOCIALISM AND OF PEACE
DEMANDED A "SOLUTION OF A FEDERAL OR CONFEDERAL
TYPE, THE FORMS OF WHICH WOULD BE THE SUBJECT OF
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NEGOTIATIONS."

6. COMMENT: IT IS NOT CLEAR IF RATSIRAKA WAS REFERRING TO AN ETHIOPIAN SOLUTION OF THE ERITREAN PROBLEM OR TO SOME SORT OF REGIONAL SOLUTION AMONG THE STATES IN THE RED SEA REGION. IF THE LATTER, HIS COMMENTS WOULD SEEM OUTDATED AND SOMEWHAT NAIVE; IF THE FORMER, THEY WOULD GO A BIT FURTHER THAN THE SOVIET POSITION, WHICH, AS THE EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS IT, FAVORS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SOME SORT OF REGIONAL ERITREAN AUTONOMY WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE ETHIOPIAN NATION.

7. WHILE WE HAVE NO INFORMATION YET ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE TALKS, WE NOTE THE HIGH VISIBILITY OF SOVIET MIN. DEF., MARSHAL USTINOV, A FACT WHICH INDICATES THAT MILITARY MATTERS MAY BE AMONG THOSE DISCUSSED. TOON

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